



RECYCLING DIVISION OF  
MAHONING COUNTY

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# The Green Scene

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## An Ounce of Prevention

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

This famous quote, attributed to Benjamin Franklin, has been applied in many areas but is especially important in the field of waste management. Waste prevention is essential to improving the environment.

There are many simple strategies to reduce waste. These strategies include:

- Shopping with a reusable tote bag: It is estimated that Americans use 60,000 plastic bags every five seconds! Most of these bags are discarded where they break down into small pieces that contaminate soil and water. Even worse, they end up as harmful litter and

cause injury to wildlife.

- Taking back the tap: Each year, making plastic water bottles used in the US takes enough oil and energy to fuel a million cars. Using a refillable bottle is always the best choice.
- Stopping junk mail: Junk mail costs 100 million trees per year. Request to have your name removed for junk mailing lists by visiting [http://directmail.com/directory/mail\\_preference/](http://directmail.com/directory/mail_preference/)
- Hanging up the foam: Polystyrene is considered non-sustainable, an air pollutant, and food contaminant. Use a travel mug for drinks and take reusable containers to restaurants

for leftovers.

- Ditching the K-Cup: 9 billion k-cups ended up in landfills last year. Always use a conventional drip brewer and return nutrients to the soil by composting the grounds.
- Using a sports drink mix: More than 60 million plastic bottles end up in landfills and incinerators every day. Make a dent in this waste by mixing sports drinks from powders and pouring into reusable containers.

Preventing waste is easy when you apply these simple strategies. By doing so, you'll reduce waste at the source and make the world a better place.



## RREAP Receives Funding for 2016



The Green Team is pleased to announce that the USDA Rural Utilities Administration has approved grant funding in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the Rural Recycling Education & Awareness Program (RREAP) during the 2016 - 2017 grant year. These

funds will allow RREAP to continue providing environmental educational services to the county's rural communities.

I would like to thank Green Team Director Lou Vega, the Mahoning County Commissioners, and the entire Green

Team staff for their continued support. I would also like to thank all of the wonderful Mahoning County residents who have helped make this program a success.

Together we are making a difference!

~ Kim Lewis



**Above:** Damascus teacher & recycling coordinator Sue Dattilio staffed the Green Team booth during the 2014 "Go Green" Festival.  
**Below:** Children decorated pumpkins during "Go Green" 2011.



## Beloit Celebrates Recycling



The small village of Beloit knows how to celebrate recycling in a big way! On October 1, Beloit will host its biennial "Go Green" Festival which promises to be packed with Earth-friendly fun!

The day's activities will begin at 10:00 am with the recycled bottle rocket launch at Beloit Village Park. At 1:00 pm the festivities will move to Fire Station #2 where things will really kick into high gear. Eco-games, recycled crafts and train rides will

captivate children while their parents kick back and enjoy live music performed by local band: "Donkey Engine." In addition to music and games, there are a few competitions taking place this year. A photo contest is being held with opportunities in three broad categories and a pie baking contest is being offered for culinary enthusiasts.

Of course, no celebration would be complete without refreshments. A hot dog roast and hydration

station will be available at this zero-waste event as well as the sweet delights that have been submitted in the pie baking contest.

If you would like more information about this exciting event, please contact Beloit Recycling Coordinator Jim McNatt at 330.938.3220 or visit [www.greenteam.cc](http://www.greenteam.cc).



## Food: Too Good to Waste

**Attention Fall Planters:** Take used nursery pots & flats to Lowe's, Home Depot or River's Bend Farm. The pots will be sterilized for re-use.



Food waste is a growing problem in America. In fact, according to the Natural Resource Defense Council, as much as 40% of all the food grown in this country gets tossed out. Recognizing this problem, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) have set a

food waste reduction goal of 50% by the year 2030. To assist the public with reaching this goal, both agencies have programs in place.

The USDA Food Waste Challenge offer tips and toolkits for schools, farmers, businesses and the general public. To learn about the opportunities covered in this program visit [www.usda.gov/oce/](http://www.usda.gov/oce/)

[www.usda.gov/oce/](http://www.usda.gov/oce/) foodwaste. The US EPA Food Recovery Challenge also offers tips and toolkits for a variety of groups. To learn about the opportunities covered in this program visit [www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-challenge-frc](http://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/food-recovery-challenge-frc).



One lucky person in Green Twp. will soon be harvesting rainwater. The Green Team is proud to announce that Holly McCoy won our Canfield Fair drawing for a rain barrel. Congratulations Holly. Enjoy!



America Recycles Day (ARD) is observed on November 15 and is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to encouraging Americans to recycle and buy recycled products.

When material is recycled it becomes new again. Plastic bottles can

become carpet or playground equipment. Glass bottles and jars may be recycled into new containers or glassphalt.

On America Recycles Day, take the pledge. **Learn** - find out which materials are collected for recycling in your community. **Act** - reduce

personal waste by recycling. **Share** - in the next month, encourage one family member or one friend to begin recycling at home or at work. For more information about this subject, visit [americarecyclesday.org](http://americarecyclesday.org).



## Sometimes You Have to Stop and Think...

*Planning.* It is an all-encompassing task that is often overwhelming. We plan either because we are naturally inclined to do so or because it is our profession. No matter the reason, now is a good time to put on your "thinking caps" and plan for future water quality initiatives and land preservation opportunities.

The Clean Ohio Fund is in its 11th round and funds are available to preserve our region's

water sources and green space. To date, total funds available in this round are \$2,735,388.00! Eligible projects for clean Ohio include those that:

- Increase habitat protection;
- Provide multiple recreational, economic and aesthetic preservation benefits;
- Preserve or restore floodplain and stream side forest functions;
- Restore and preserve aquatic biological communities;

- Preserve headwater streams.

Past recipients of Clean Ohio funds include Mill Creek MetroParks, Austintown Twp. Park, Boardman Twp. and the City of Youngstown. Previous projects include wetland preservation, stream restoration, riparian corridor protection, and land acquisition for park expansion.

To learn more about these wonderful opportunities, call Stephanie Dyer at 234.254.1520.



### Holiday Recycling Drives

Each year during the holiday season, an extra 5 million tons of waste is generated --- 25% more than usual! To address this issue, the Green Team is sponsoring two special recycling drives.

Wrap It Up Again! is the wrapping paper and greeting card drive scheduled for December 26 through January 15 at our recycling drop-off sites. Remember to remove all ribbons and bows and to exclude foil wraps.

The Christmas Tree Recycling Drive will be held December 26 through January 31 at designated recycling drop-off sites. Trees will be donated to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for use as wildlife habitat.

Last year Mahoning County diverted nearly 5,000 pounds of wrapping paper and greeting cards along with 115,600 pounds of Christmas trees from the waste stream. Let's make this year an even bigger success. Remember---every little bit counts.

## Presents With a Purpose

If you're at a loss to find the perfect gift and are shopping for the "person who has everything" why not consider making a charitable donation to a local agency in your gift recipient's name? In the valley, opportunities abound.

For the humanitarian on

your list, consider making a donation to:

- The Beatitude House
- Veteran's Outreach
- Rescue Mission
- Make A Wish Found.
- Compass Services

For the animal lover on your list consider making a donation to:

- Angels for Animals

- Birds in Flight
- Desperate Cat Lives
- Every Dog Matters
- Friends of Fido
- Frisky Ferrets, et al
- NE OH Lab Rescue
- No Fear Rescue
- New Lease on Life
- OH Shorthair Rescue
- Paw Platoon
- West Side Cats



## Design-an-Ornament Contest



Are your students creative? Do they like to create something from reused material? Then you are ready for your students to enter the "Design-an-Ornament Contest." From now until November 25, 2016, students in grades K through twelve can make ornaments from any reused material that they can find. Send them to the Green Team office. The

Green Team will decorate a Christmas tree at Fellows Riverside Gardens in Mill Creek Park with various "reused" ornaments that the students send to the Green Team. Other trees may be decorated as well, depending upon how many ornaments we receive. The contest part of designing an ornament is to see which classroom gets a bird feeder

made from recycled material. Every classroom that enters will have its name put into a jar. After November 20th, the Green Team will pick a name from the jar to receive the bird feeder. Be creative and enjoy making the ornaments while teaching your students about "Reuse!"

~ Peg Flynn





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### Be an angel ...

and recycle your old towels and blankets. Angels for Animals is in need of used bath towels and small blankets for their animal charity. If you would like to donate these items please drop them off at the shelter located at 4750 State Rt. 165 in Canfield.



## Go Green



## Keep it Loose



Remember to empty recyclables into containers *loose*. Plastic bags clog machinery at sorting facilities and have become a problem in the waste stream. Following the 3 R's will help you manage plastic bags.

### REDUCE

- ♦ Avoid the need for plastic bags by always shopping with a reusable tote. Plastic bags often end up as litter and cause significant damage to wildlife and the environment. Reducing the number of plastic bags in circulation can help alleviate these problems.



### REUSE

- ♦ Empty recyclables into bins *loose* and save your plastic bags for re-use.
- ♦ Contact local food banks and thrift stores to see if they accept plastic shopping bags for re-use.



### RECYCLE

The following Mahoning County retail stores offer recycling receptacles for clean, dry plastic shopping bags:

- ♦ All Giant Eagle Stores
- ♦ J.C. Penney Store, Mahoning Ave., Austintown
- ♦ Kohl's
- ♦ Lowe's in Boardman and Youngstown
- ♦ Marc's
- ♦ Target
- ♦ Wal\*Mart Super Center, Goldie Rd., Youngstown
- ♦ Wal\*Mart Super Center, Mahoning Ave., Austintown

